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This was the era of able men who came to the front, broke up the old traditions of appointment to office on account of birth or favor, and made merit display itself and receive its reward. In this century we have the three great unifiers of the nation, Nobunaga (1533-1582), who gave Buddhism almost its death-blow as a political force; Hideyoshi, or the Taiko (1536-1598), who humbled all the daimios to the exaltation of the mikado and then gave employment to an army, almost national in its spirit, by invading Korea; Iyeyasu (1542-1616), who carried out the Taiko's great plans, made a government that men of mediocrity could carry on, and gave Japan that long peace in which she has nourished her strength for twentieth-century enterprise.

Mr. Murdoch's proportion of text is about equal in space for each of these three heroes. He brings under review both the Dutch and English as well as the Portuguese and Spaniards, and shows vividly the clash and interplay of forces with abundant reference to original authorities, while every page reveals his power of analysis and his acquaintance with the elements of the theme. There are numerous maps, prepared by his Japanese assistant, and some of these, illustrating the feudal divisions of the empire, are exceedingly valuable and interesting. The author punctures many a bubble of tradition, showing that instead of the "two million" Christian converts there were never more than 300,000. Their quality for the most part may be easily imagined, when it is seen so clearly on these pages that the methods of conversion usually employed were those of political force, so congenial to men hailing from countries in which the Inquisition and the *auto de fe* were institutions. That Christianity in Japan was political, and that the Japanese, loving foreign trade as they did, refused to pay the price of the probable loss of political independence for it, is shown in the fact, vouched for by the Spanish missionaries themselves, that numerous Christians in the civil war at Osaka in 1615 had joined the rebel army. On their banners, besides the cross and the image of the Savior and patron saint of Spain, was the legend "the great protector of Spain". The king of Spain, who had had the Japanese coast surveyed, demanded half the output of the mines. No wonder then that Iyeyasu bolted the doors of the empire. As to the literary form of Mr. Murdoch's history, there is much to be desired. The use of slang and not a little undignified phraseology mars the sterling value of the matter. Although covering little more than a century of time in its scope, this volume will be exceedingly useful in correcting the multitudinous errors found in those books on Japanese history which, unlike Mr. Murdoch's, have been compiled from late deposits rather than from early sources.

W. E. GRIFFIS.

Champlain, the Founder of New France. By EDWIN ASA DIX, M.A., LL.B. [Historic Lives.] (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1903. Pp. 246.)

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN, founder and governor of New France, was one of the most interesting characters of his generation. Probably no

other person in the long and picturesque history of the French régime in North America is silhouetted so strongly against the background of popular tradition, unless it be Father Marquette and possibly Count Frontenac. Living in the golden days of chivalric adventure, when Europeans were discovering and planting new worlds beyond the great waters, and science had not yet unveiled the thousand mysteries of the wilderness, none surpassed the deeds of this simple-hearted, pious, daring, and imaginative Biscayan.

At first a lieutenant in the army of Navarre, fighting gallantly in Brittany, the peace which made a king of Henry IV. turned Champlain free to achieve adventure elsewhere. In Spain he was commissioned to sail his uncle's ship to the Caribbean Sea and transport Peruvian treasure across the Isthmus of Panama — a two and a half years' service (1599-1602) filled with glowing adventure. Returning to his sovereign's court, where he was granted the pension of a favorite, he was in 1603 sent out to the St. Lawrence to report on the Sieur de Chastes's trading and colonizing venture there. In this voyage he ascended with Pontgravé to Lachine Rapids and noted how admirably situated was this mighty river for the portal to an empire. In 1604 he was back again in Canada, this time with both De Monts and Pontgravé. The tercentenary of their discovery of the spacious harbor of Port Royal, now Annapolis Basin, will be appropriately celebrated by the Nova Scotia Historical Society during the last week of June, 1904. The winter of 1604-1605 was spent by the crews on an island in Passamaquoddy Bay, and the two following at Port Royal. During four successive seasons Champlain scientifically surveyed and mapped the shore between Cape Breton and Cape Cod, becoming acquainted with the harbors of Boston and Plymouth fifteen years before the landing of the Pilgrims and nine years before the arrival of Captain John Smith. Champlain's advice that the colony be placed on the St. Lawrence, nearer to their savage customers and farther from possible attack by rivals, prevailed with De Monts and the king, and in 1608 he was sent out as governor of New France. In July, planting his little settlement with its back to the wall of Quebec, Champlain defied savage enemies, the forbidding climate, the meager soil, and all the numerous train of obstacles that at first beset European colonization in the North American wilderness, and here laid deep the foundations of New France. By the time of his death (December 25, 1635), he had spread the sphere of French influence as far as the interlocking streams which in Wisconsin form the principal canoe route to the Mississippi, had personally conducted explorations to the shores of Lake Huron and the banks of the Mohawk and the Hudson, and through the active vehicle of intertribal barter Paris-made utensils and weapons had reached the most distant tribes of the continental interior.

Lacking vanity, Governor Champlain comported himself with a dignity which won universal respect, from the gorgeously-bedecked king at Versailles to the naked Montagnais savage in his filthy wigwam on the Ottawa. Self-centered, with calm poise, admirable self-control, rare

patience, steadfastness of purpose, sanity of judgment, tactfulness, a piety that was remarkable even in his day, and courage undaunted, we also find in him one of the most lovable and sympathetic of companions. The romance of his situation appealed strongly to his nature, and he was passionately fond of wilderness exploration. His services to mankind were still further enhanced by his love of authorship, which led him to publish the carefully-prepared journals of his richly-varied experiences, and embellish them with maps and sketches, works which to-day are among the most fertile sources for the history of New France and New England.

Amid the richness of his materials, Mr. Dix obviously has suffered from the embarrassment incident to the condensation of his story into the narrow limits imposed upon the writers in this useful series. Nevertheless he has given us a well-executed, highly readable sketch, properly sympathetic, and displaying excellent powers of analysis, with well-trained sense of historical perspective. He would be a sorry biographer who could write a dull book concerning such a hero, and Mr. Dix has certainly succeeded in making an unusually interesting volume. If, after such acknowledgment, one be allowed a parting sentence of criticism, it would be to the effect that the biography might have been still more acceptable had the author given us a clearer picture of the men and life of New France during Champlain's romantic career; the governor's personality stands forth with some distinctness, but we find the background somewhat hazy.

R. G. THWAITES.

The Philippine Islands, 1493-1898. Edited by EMMA HELEN BLAIR and JAMES A. ROBERTSON. Vol. X., 1597-1599; Vol. XI., 1599-1602; Vol. XII., 1601-1604; Vol. XIII., 1604-1605. (Cleveland: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1904. Pp. 318, 319, 324, 318.)

WITHIN the limits of a brief review, one cannot hope to touch critically upon the nature and contents of the sixty-odd documents upon early Philippine history which these four large octavo volumes present us, or even to catalogue the documents, which are in various instances the composites of a number of letters or reports upon certain subjects. This is especially evident when it is noted that nearly 350 of their 1,279 pages are occupied by the first English version that has ever appeared of the *Relation of the Philippine Islands* published at Rome in 1604 by the Jesuit father Pedro Chirino, which relation is one of the four or five printed sources of prime importance for the study of early Spanish history in the Philippines and of the primitive state of the Filipinos.

Copies of the original edition of Chirino's work are, of course, very rare, although the editors have had access to two which are owned in the United States. A second edition of the work was printed in Manila in 1890, in Spanish, and this is quite readily obtainable. Its republication,